



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

OCTOBER 17, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: JON SCHNEIDER

PHONE: (202) 225-3826

BISHOP URGES PATAKI TO SEEK EMERGENCY GRANT FOR BROOKHAVEN WORKERS

Over 1,000 Employees Due to be Laid-Off this January

Washington, DC: Congressman Tim Bishop sent a letter to Governor George E. Pataki, urging him to request an emergency grant for 100 permanent and 1000 seasonal employees of the Brookhaven IRS Service Center who may soon be out of work. Bishop informed Pataki that he is working with the Suffolk County Department of Labor and the One Stop Employment Center in Hauppauge, and that they are prepared to quickly work on helping the employees find new jobs upon receipt of the grant.

States may request a National Emergency Workforce Investment Act Grant in situations where a community is hit by a mass layoff affecting 50 or more people. The 1100 IRS employees may be out of work this coming January when the agency will likely move forward with plans to eliminate the submissions processing center in Brookhaven.

“New York continues to be hard-hit by the ongoing economic downturn that has taken a toll on so many of our communities,” Bishop wrote in the letter to Pataki. “The forthcoming layoff... will be particularly hard to absorb for the community and for their families.”

Bishop noted that although the vast majority of the employees are seasonal, these jobs are the primary source of income for those employees.

“Although 1,000 of the employees who will be out of work are technically seasonal employees, I want to stress that many of these individuals rely on this seasonal employment as their primary source of income throughout the year,” Bishop wrote.

Bishop is still calling on the IRS to maintain the current workforce and keep the facility open through August 2005. Doing so would help give the workers more time to find new jobs as well as ensure New York taxpayers do not experience any unnecessary delays with their tax returns.

A copy of the letter follows.

#